

**Vietnam Veterans of America
Council of State Council Presidents
April 7, 2016 Meeting
Silver Spring, MD
Approved Minutes**

Meeting of Council of State Council Presidents was called to order by 1st Vice-Chair Rex Moody at 9:00 AM.

Wayne Reynolds led the devotion. Prayer request for those who we have lost and those who are ill. The Pledge of Allegiance was done. A moment of silence was observed.

Rex Moody reminded everyone to silence their cell phones. There will be a \$5.00 penalty for your phone going off in the meeting.

Roll Call of States: At the time of roll call the States at the meeting totaled 44; a quorum was met. The following States were present:

Alabama	Maryland	Oklahoma
Alaska	Massachusetts	Oregon
Arizona	Michigan	Pennsylvania
Arkansas	Minnesota	Puerto Rico
California	Mississippi	Rhode Island
Colorado	Missouri	South Carolina
Connecticut	Montana	South Dakota
Florida	Nebraska	Tennessee
Georgia	Nevada	Texas
Idaho	New Jersey	Utah
Illinois	New Mexico	Vermont
Iowa	New York	Washington
Kansas	North Carolina	West Virginia
Kentucky	North Dakota	Wisconsin
Louisiana	Ohio	

Officers Present:

Chair – Excused Absence
1st Vice Chair– Rex Moody
2nd Vice Chair - Richard Lindbeck

- Rex Moody appointed Wayne Reynolds as the Parliamentarian.
- **Agenda:** A number of items were added to the agenda. The agenda was adopted with additions and corrections.
- **Minutes:** Motion made to accept the minutes of the January 13-14, 2016 CSCP meeting as written, seconded, passed without objection.
- **Announcements:** Wes Guidry commented on how crowded the room setup was for today's meeting. He said if we wanted to take a quick break the hotel staff was standing by with more tables to extend the length of each row. Wes reminded everyone of the reception at 6:00 PM. We also reminded everyone to please leave a tip after breakfast. He explained how the buffet works, pay before you eat.
- Rex Moody asked if we had any new State Presidents present today, asked the new state presidents to see him during the break.
- **John Rowan**, National President, welcomed everyone. John reported that there was a "birthday boy" at the meeting, Terry Courville. President Rowan inquired on how many state presidents were not going to run for reelection this year. Not many raised their hands. John spoke about the Toxic Exposure Act, we are still trying to get co-sponsors to sign on. President Rowan said they are waiting for the Congressional Budget office to put a number on the bill (price tag). They would like to put a billion dollar price tag on it, but they are looking at the possible effects of the bill instead of looking at the actual cost. The VA said research probably would not cost 10 million a year. The money should not be an issue now, the money will be an issue later on. Getting support from all kinds of organizations. All the Presidential Candidates that answered us all answered in support of the bill. President Rowan mentioned that Mr. Rubio from Florida, his brother is a Vietnam Veteran, can't understand why he has not signed on to support. Mr. Cruz from Texas has not signed on, when they come to your state to campaign ask them the tuff questions. He, Rick Weidmen and Tom Berger have been talking to Hillary Clinton's people and we are going to have representation at both parties' conventions.
- John Rowan then spoke about where VVA is going. Are we going away or are we going into another organization. While in Lafayette at the CSCP meeting he asked how many people want to do something or how many people want to run it out. Most everyone said run it out. We need to understand what that means. Veterans Benefit committee has to struggle with some serious issues over the next few years. John said we are liable for the claims we take in, forever.

- John Rowan spoke about the IAVA organization. They are not a 501 C 19. They are a 501 C 4. They are not a veterans organization. There are no chapters, no state councils and no election.
- John spoke about a New York legislator who said he would not sign on to any bill. So he and the New York VVA members let him know if he didn't sign on to the bill he was going to be beat in the election. The next week the legislator signed onto the bill. You do whatever you have to do to get them signed on.
- John Rowan discussed the VA, telling us the Koch brothers want to shut the VA down. If we take all the veterans in the VA and put them in the private sector where are they all going to go? And the private sector doctors don't know veterans. More discussion was had on the VA.
- More discussion was had on VVA's VSO program.
- John Rowan says I am not going to tell you VVA is shutting down next week, next year or in ten years. Talk to your members at your state convention, ask them what they think, what are we going to do, are we going to figure out how to morph ourselves into something that will last or are we just going to accept the fact that we are going to fade away. That is the reality we are dealing with.
- **Christine Panek** spoke about the Hep-C awareness program that they are working with Dr. Berger. The reason is simple, Vietnam Veterans had blood exposure in battle and we are the baby boomer population making screen so critical for Vietnam Veterans. The program is about 45 minutes in length, first a Vietnam Veteran speaks about his personal journey with the disease, then a nurse speaks and finally a question and answer session. Their company will cater a breakfast, lunch or dinner depending on the time of the program. They want at least one hundred people to attend the program. They are working with state councils, chapters and regional. Nothing is sold at the program, it is all education so as to make veterans aware.
- **Wes Guidry and Dan Stenvold** spoke about the upcoming leadership conference in Tucson, AZ., hotel shuttle and different events at the conference. 30 seminars are planned, including Meeting Planner, Secondary PTSD, Hep-C and more. Dan let everyone know that Dr. Cooper would not be in attendance.
- **Wes Guidry** let everyone know what was on the menu for lunch on Thursday and Friday.
- **Richard Lindbeck** spoke about the Council of State Council Presidents Welcome Guide. The guide was set up to help the new state presidents to work through the system, airline reservations, and hotel reservations and so on.

- **Motion 0416001** out of committee to accept the CSCP Welcome Guide. Passed without objection.
- **Officers Reports:**
- **1st Vice chair Rex Moody** said he had no report from Charlie Montgomery. Rex said his report was going to be about the budget and he is going to wait until after lunch to give the report. He spoke about having to go before the finance committee tonight and it will take some discussion. Probably 20-30 minutes.
- **2nd Vice chair Richard Lindbeck** said he had no report now, that it would also be later on.
- **CSCP Budget:**
- **Rex Moody** spoke on the CSCP budget. In January at the Lafayette meeting Rex reported on the proposed budget which include an increase in funds for a January meeting at the National BOD meeting. The budget was reduced substantially by the finance committee. Rex reported that he was going to meet with the finance committee tonight with a proposal he wants to present to them, it might get us additional funds and it might not. Rex says it is not for a CSCP meeting in January but coming to the National BOD meeting. We would come in January to participate in the committee meetings.
- **Wayne Reynolds** spoke about the proposed budget. When he arrived yesterday he received a report that there was a substantial increase in revenue. Wayne spoke about the budget and the increase in funds. Then he spoke about the CSCP coming to the January meeting to attend the committee meetings. If we are going to come to the January meeting the CSCP needs to be involved in the committees. Join at least two committees.
- **Rex Moody** then spoke about the third CSCP meeting being a done issue, no more third meeting. The presidents need to be involved in the committees at national. The January meeting the CSCP would come in on Thursday and leave on Sunday, no CSCP meeting in January. **Dan Stenvold** asked if the third meeting would be mandatory like the April and October meeting. Rex stated that is something we would have to study. There was a lengthy discussion on the issue of attending the third meeting.
- **Motion 0416002**, by John Riling, to have the CSCP Chair go before the VVA Finance Committee and ask for funding to finance the January BOD meeting, mandatory.

- Motion seconded by G. Gomez. Discussion, Beverly Stewart asked for a friendly amendment. To remove the word mandatory, as no meeting can be mandatory. John Riling agreed and the word mandatory was removed. Amendment passed.
- **Motion 0416002** now reads to have the CSCP Chair go before the VVA Finance Committee and ask for funding to finance the January BOD meeting. Discussion was had. Hand vote taken. Motion passed.
- **Dennis Howland** spoke about the book, “A Time to Honor” that the Vietnam Veterans of America from Utah had published at no cost and it will be disbursed to 47,000 Vietnam Veterans in Utah.
- **Rex Moody** identified Henry, the New Mexico State President, as the gentleman looking for VVA state pins for his grandson. Give your pins to Henry.
- **Lunch Break** 11:30 to 1:30.
- **Joe Sternburg** commented on the new VVA web site. If you have a complaint send it to Joe in writing. The web site is a work in progress.
- **Joe Sternburg** also spoke about the 990N. He has heard good and bad. Chill for a month and let them get it straightened out.
- **Jerry Yamamoto**, minority affairs committee chair, asked the state presidents to go back to their states and ask the chapter presidents to recruit minorities. Minorities don’t know about VVA.
- **Veterans Benefits: Tom Burke** spoke about the Veterans Service Officer program. There are 15 states with service officer programs. He knows there are all kinds of rumors flying out there that the service officer program will be reduced. He discussed a couple of states that are having problems, people are getting older and want to retire. VVA is responsible for all claims we take in. The VA is currently scanning all claims and we have a number of state councils that have a lot of paperwork. The question is how will we scan thousands of documents into the VA program and who pays for it. The Veterans Benefit Committee has looked at several different ways but no decisions have been made. Don’t listen to rumors.
- **Jim Vale** about the VSO program, how many VSO’s we have, how many Regional Offices we staff at. We are scaling back at those states where we don’t have anyone at the regional office. We are looking at cancelling the accreditation with county VSO’s because we don’t have anyone at the RO to follow through on the claim. Jim Vale and Tom Burke took questions and answered them.

- **Rex Moody** spoke about two items in the state council packets, the revision of the at large membership policy and the other is the other is the chapter revocation policy. He spoke about the two items getting to the state presidents too late, not giving the CSCP enough time to review the revisions. He mentioned that we table these two items. **Bill Meeks** explained the revisions of the policies. Discussion was had on both policies.
- **Motion 0416003** by Richard Lindbeck to table the At-large and revocation policy revisions until the recent revisions can be reviewed. The motion was seconded. Discussion was had and a roll call vote was taken. The motion passed.
- **Brigadier General John Reese, Retired**, spoke on the 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War. He took and answered questions.
- **Tracie Houston**, VVA Membership, gave us an update on the Live Web Rosters that they are working on. There will be one contact person for each state council and chapter that will have access. There was a lengthy discussion on the rosters.
- **CSCP Committee Reports:** Rex Moody brought up the issue of committee reports being before the committee meetings therefore the committee reports are several months old. Rex asked for comments. Beverly Stewart spoke about the issue of having the reports on the agenda. We hear from the committee chairs on Saturdays at the board meetings. The time slot could be used for something more important. Discussion was held on the issue. Rex wants anyone with an idea to email him their idea. Dave Simmons mention posting the CSCP reports on the National web page. The CSCP has a page on the web site that only has a picture on it.
- **Wayne Reynolds** had a question about the National Disciplinary Policy not being on the agenda. Rex Moody explained that he had spoken with the National Secretary and this is something he wanted to bring directly to the board tomorrow.
- **Motion 0416004**, by Wayne Reynolds, to address the policy on our agenda at this point. The motion was seconded. Discussion was had on the motion. Motion passed without objection.
- **The National Disciplinary Policy Proposed changes** was included in the CSCP packets. The changes in the policy have been highlighted in yellow. Butch Huber went over the changes in the policy. Stated the changes were made due to suggestions by the general counsel. Bill Meeks also explained why the changes were being suggested.

- **Motion 0416005**, by Wayne Reynolds, to accept the changes made to the National Disciplinary Policy. Motion was seconded. Discussion was held. Hand vote taken, motion passed.
- **CSCP Committee Reports:** Some CSCP Committee chairs gave reports.
 - Government Affairs-Richard Lindbeck gave a report.
 - Legislative Affairs-Gene Crego gave a report.
 - Minority Affairs-Gumersindo Gomez gave a report.
 - Nomination Committee-Dave Simmons spoke about the CSCP elections that will be held in October. Deadline for intent to run, October 1, 2015. There will be no running from the floor.
- **Round Table**, Rex Moody informed everyone in attendance that at the Lafayette meeting the CSCP decided to keep the round table reports to 3 minutes. State presidents gave their respective reports.
- **Rex Moody** had to leave the meeting early to attend the finance committee meeting. Richard Lindbeck took over the CSCP meeting.
- **Grant Coates**, POW/MIA Committee Chair, spoke about state council POW/MIA committee chairs. 25 state councils do not have a POW/MIA committee chair. If you have a POW/MIA committee chair get that person information to Grant.
- **Richard Lindbeck** reminded everyone to get their reimbursement forms turned into him.
- **Meeting recessed at 5:03 PM**
- **Meeting Adjourned 4-8-2016 at the end of the National BOD meeting.**